

## COMPUTER ART BY DICK SKOVER

MILATARI NEWSLETTER  
Volume 4 Number 1

December 1984  
Price \$1.50

### Schedule

- Dec 13th 7:30 PM Board of Directors meeting  
Chris Stieber's home
- Dec 15th 3:00 PM MILATARI East meeting  
Ambruster School
- Jan 12th all day WAAAAC Swapfest  
Wauk. Expo Center
- Jan 17th 7:30 PM Board of Directors meeting  
Chris Stieber's home
- Jan 19th 2:00 PM MILATARI East meeting  
Ambruster School
- Jan 22nd 7:30 PM ATR8000 SIG meeting  
Don Wilcox's home
- Jan 24th 7:30 PM MILATARI West meeting  
Wauk. State Bank

PRESIDENT'S RAM  
by Gary Nolan

HO HO HOOO! MERRRY CHRISTMAS!!!!

Yep! It's that time of year again. I mean who could have missed it? I might be getting too cynical in my old age, but when they start putting up the Christmas decorations and the artificial trees with those xxxxxxxx ornaments that play 50 of your favorite holiday tunes, BEFORE Labor Day it's just too much for me! Anyway, no sooner did I report last month that the price of the 800XL had dropped to \$169 than Atari announced that the NEW list for the computers was now \$120, and some stores are selling them for \$113. Disk drive prices are down to around \$179 with corresponding drops within the whole line product line. I guess we'll be able to tell when the Christmas shopping season really starts by the start of the computer price wars. December also means the Christmas Program contest. If you haven't gotten that program of yours entered do it now! There will be a number of door prizes given away also, so plan on being there. In case you forgot how to enter give Carl Mielcarek a call at 355-3539. But do it early the meeting is on the 15th.

LITTLE BITS...GROW INTO BIG BYTES

(Translation: Atari News)

From the Tuff To Take Dept. comes the news that Fast Jack has given \$30 million of his own money to Atari Corp. and is prepared to pump another \$45 mill into it if necessary. I wonder if it comes out of "petty cash" or pocket change. Face it, the "home computer" market has been DULL the past year and a half. No really new, good machines (forget the Adam). The last "new" home computer was designed in '78, and that was the 800. Reality is that the 64 is nothing more than an upgraded 800 with a lot better marketing behind it. If the 800 or the 800XL would have been marketed properly Tramiel would still be at Commodore trying to make a dent in the computer market. But it wasn't and he's not so lets get on with life. As Fast Jack said in a recent inter-

view, "I came back because i felt this business was getting very dull. Everyone was trying to get as greedy as he could: no reduction in prices, no improvement in technology. In 1985 you will see some excitement in this business from Atari." (Go get 'em Jack) Along those lines Tramiel has said that Atari is preparing five new computers. Two eight bit, two 16 bit and a 32 bit machine. They will also present a new operating system called TOS (Tramiel Operating System) which will be coupled with GEM (Graphics Environment Manager) on the 16 & 32 bit computers. Both of these were developed by Digital Research (the CP/M people) and features icons, pull down menus and overlapping windows. It looks like DRI is trying to develop a common graphics system that will allow programmers to write for one standard and have it run on many machines ala CP/M. At the last COMDEX they had it up and running on IBM, AT&T, TI, Tandy and ACT (Apricot) computers. They also announced that ACT and Atari had signed license agreements and that others will be announced later. They expect that up to one million computers will be using GEM in '85. Atari announced that the 8-bit systems will be shown at the winter CES, held in January, and probably shipped around April of '85. The new computers (8-bit) will be hardware and somewhat software compatible. The 800XL will see further price cuts when these hit the market, probably under to \$100. They plan to announce one of the 16-bit machines, which is already being given to software houses, at or before WCES. This one is said to have two 3 1/2" Sony drives. The 32-bit system is to be announced at the electronics industries trade show in Hanover, Germany in April. They also talked of marketing hard disks and expressed interest in the transportable market (ala the SX64 ???). There will also be a new ad campaign, minus Alan Alda, and a new magazine published titled Atari Explorer.

And while all this sounds like manna from heaven for you die hard Atari fans, remembe

## PRESIDENT'S RAM (Continued)

this. This is a well practiced song and dance routine from an old performer known as Jack Tramiel. And while their faces may be new at the "New" Atari, they're old and familiar ones at Commodore. Almost the whole staff is made up of Jack's good 'ol boys from his Commodore days, and this type of Hype was standard operating procedure back then. A lot of things were promised but never delivered and a lot of computers were shown but never produced. Lets hope that Mr. T has mellowed out a bit. Check the Jan. issue of ANALOG for an article on the press conference and an interview with Fast Jack.

Not really Atari news but still interesting. Amiga showed slides supposedly generated by their new computer that WOVED the peasants at COMDEX. No machine just slides. All they would say was that the computer would be on the market sometime in '85. A spokesman then listed the attributes that he felt systems in the 80's would need to be successful, but were not necessarily those of the new Amiga. Could Gentleman Jim Morgan be alive and well and living at Amiga? These include high res graphics with high res monitors (RGB) using more colors, animation capabilities, stereo sound, 32-bit processors (for speed) and a simpler user interface. This is news?

## NOT GLASSES --- CLASSES

Basic and assembler classes will start in January. If interested see Linda Scott for basic classes or Eric Hanson for assembler classes at the next meeting. Classes will be held once a month unless otherwise requested by those taking part.

I DON'T NEED NO CHAUFFEUR TO DRIVE MY PRINTER  
 If any of you AtariWriter people are looking for a way to use those non Atari printers with that word processor and gave up when APX was shut down, take heart. Gary Furr who wrote the original driver is now selling direct. You can get drivers for Atari 1020/1027, all the MX,RX,FX Epsons, Gemini, IDS 480, Mannesmann Tally 160/180L & Spirit

80, NEC 8023, Prowriter 8510, Silver Reed 770 and the BMP PB 401 printers for \$10. To order send check or money order (no cash thru the mail) for \$10 and specify which printer you have to:

Gary Furr  
 P.O. Box 1073  
 Mountain View, CA 94042

## THANKS GUYS

Our first thank you goes to Tom Terwilliger for the super Atari Light Pen demo at the November meeting. It was sooo good that both Dave and I are hunting around some.

Next thanks goes to Tom Kassel of Computer Software Center who has been advertising in the newsletter for some time now. CSC has a good selection of Atari software and will be open from 10am till 6pm on the third Sat. so you can stop on your way to or from the meetings. Another thanks to the people at OSS for doing things to help Atari user groups and users. They have been advertising in newsletters of groups all over the country and did a lot to help at Taricon '84.

This would be as good a time as any to urge you to help those who help the club. How about stopping at CSC and buying one of the software packages by OSS?

And one BIG thanks and a tip of the Milatari hat to Cy Cohen who helped us get the club T-shirts and hats and arranged for us to sell the Pac Man shirts.

## TARICON '85 REPORT

Initial response has not been overwhelming. I guess we'll have to wait until we see what happens at the Winter CES before we can expect some of the other groups to make a decision. The groups that I have talked to so far (four) have been very interested but are not cash rich (join the crowd). This will be the biggest problem to overcome.

## A.U.G.I.

No not Augi Doggie or Doggie Daddy. (WHO?)

## PRESIDENT'S RAM (Continued)

This AUGI is Atari User Groups International. If you read my report on TARICON '84 in September newsletter you might remember it. If not here's a quick explanation. At Taricon about 14 user groups formed an organization to be known as AUGI to act as the voice of the user community and to act as its representative in communicating with hardware and software manufacturers and Atari in particular. The old saying that one voice representing many speaks louder and is heard more clearly than the shouting of many at once. Anyway they sent along a membership application for us to fill out and return. There are two, three part questions on it that we will need your help in filling out. The first one asks us to list what we feel are our three most important questions about Atari's future. The other asks us to list three functions that we think AUGI should perform. Think about it, come to the December meeting and we'll discuss it, fill in the blanks, send in the form with the membership fee and help AUGI get off the ground and start helping user groups around the world.

## OH NO! NOW HOW AM I EVER GOING TO FIX IT?

Those of you with TRAK disk drives know by now that Trak is out of business. If you didn't, SURPRISE!!! Sorry about that, I know it's not very funny buying something and then not knowing where to take it if you have problems with it. We've found one source of repairs for Trak owners and if you know of others please let us know so we can pass on the info. The following name was found in the Peoria Atari user group's newsletter.

Rob Snell  
Computer Creations  
424 E. Stroop  
Kettering, OH 45429  
(513) 294-0212

I would suggest you call to get price info before sending your drive.

HEY SAM, GIMME THE USUAL AND MAKE IT A DOUBLE  
Among other things being offered by

Southern Software is a new DOS called SpartaDOS which was modeled after (but not compatible with) PC-DOS. It time/date stamps files when they are created or rewritten. Other features include auto sensing of the disk format it's reading/writing (even Atari's cute Dual density), batch file processing with input redirection and communications support. It will handle 5 1/4 and 8 inch drives from 36 to 80 tracks in single or double sided. You can have an unlimited number of directories with 128 files per directory. List price is \$39.95. The other interesting product called the US Doubler which turns your 1050 into a true (180K) double density drive. When using SpartaDOS (which is included), an increase in data transfer rates of 3 times faster is claimed. It also claims to make the 1050 compatible with all other Atari DOS's. This is a two chip replacement deal with no soldering required in 99% of the cases. List price for the US Doubler is \$69.95. They also have what's called the R-Time Cartridge that keeps the correct time, all the time. It plugs into any cartridge slot on any Atari computer, but will not fit as-is into either a 400 or 1200XL, and has a cartridge extension port in the back that allows the use of any other cartridge when using a 600/800XL. You can access it from your own Basic programs using simple Peeks & Pokes. On top of all that it comes with a built in 5 year battery. Prices for this gem is \$79.95 or \$99.95 w/SpartaDOS. They also sell The Chip/Archiver I for \$99.95, the Happy Archiver for \$39.95 and are running a "User Group Special" on the Happy Enhancement for the 810 and 1050 drives. The special price for either is \$179. In limited supply are some enhanced 1050's for \$375. Those prices are good until Dec. 15th. They handle Atari compatible hardware and software at discounted prices and will send you a updated list if you send them a SASE. They update the list weekly and will send you a new list for each SASE that you send them.

## MAN-ON-THE-STREET Interview

Hi! I'm the phantom interviewer from Milatari Central. This month we'll talk to that rather elusive "average member". The interview was held in private to protect both our identities.

MA: Why did you join Milatari?

AM: To find out more about this computer. How to program it, use it, that kind of thing.

MA: And did you learn anything?

AM: Well kinda. I took some Basic classes and went to the workshops and they answered some of my questions. But there are still some things I'd like to find out. You know, more about the graphics of the machine. That's what I'm interested in, graphics tablets, light pens, drawing programs the good stuff.

MA: Good stuff?

AM: Yea! All that stuff about word processors, spread sheets, data bases is a waste of time. Even my friends think so, and they're not graphic freaks like me.

MA: And you still talk to them?

AM: Sure.

MA: What are they into, if not graphics?

AM: Some are hackers, you know the guys that like to tear the machine apart and find out what makes it do what it does, and what they can do to it. Others like to get into assembly language programming to see what they can make the computer do. And a couple of others have modems and like to hit the boards, BBS's that is.

MA: Do they belong to Milatari?

AM: Most of them. The others think that it's a waste of time, because nobody is on their level.

MA: Do you think that it's a waste of time to go to the meetings?

AM: Well they don't do enough on graphics and other good stuff so I guess you might say that. I mean they could've had a workshop on the graphics tablets and programs available. I'll bet the interest is there among the other members.

MA: Have you brought it up at one of the meetings or volunteered to help at a workshop?

AM: No, not really. Hey they're running the club, they should think of things like that. Besides, that's too much work to expect me to do.

MA: But you expect them to do that much work, right?

AM: Sure, that's their job. Isn't it?

MA: I think that "THEIR" job is to respond to the needs and wants of the membership. But that "THEY" can't do that job unless you the members tell them what you want or need. Right? And lets be honest about it. After all these people are volunteers.

AM: Well they're getting something out of it. Aren't they?

MA: Are they? Maybe the satisfaction that they have helped other members. Other than that I don't know of anything.

AM: But why should I go through all that trouble just to give these other people all my knowledge and tricks on a silver platter for nothing?

MA: And where did you learn about all these tricks?

AM: Mostly from magazines and books I bought and from trying different things.

MA: Someone had to take the time and effort to type the article and send it to the magazine so that you could learn from his expertise. He was sharing his experience with others. Sure he got paid for it. But not that much. And since most of what you know is second hand knowledge, you probably wouldn't get paid by a magazine for it.

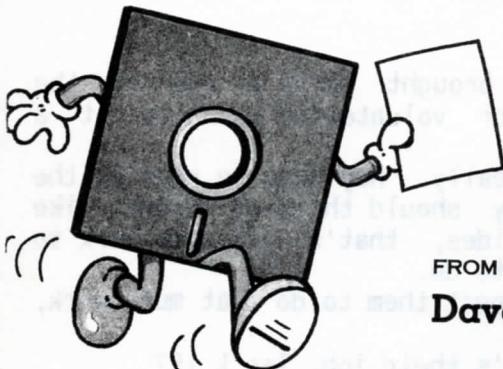
AM: So what?

MA: So, what you could do with this knowledge is to share it with others. Besides, the other members might think you're as smart as you think you are!

AM: You think so?

MA: Hey, you never know. Why not give it a try. It can't hurt, can it?

AM: I don't know. Let me think about it.



FROM THE DISK OF  
**Dave Frazer**

Many of us purchase hardware and software from firms outside our area. This has become a very easy task because many merchants provide toll free phone numbers for ordering. However catalog shopping is safest if you order by mail rather than over the phone. Reason: Only mail orders are covered by Federal Trade Commission rules on shipping deadlines (within 30 days of receipt of your order) and the customer's cancellation rights (a refund must be mailed within seven days if you cancel because of delay).

\*\*\*

We received this press release from CLEO (Computer Listings of Employment Opportunities).

**ON-LINE DATABASE OF TECHNICAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
- FREE TO USERS -**

- o CLEO is free, confidential, interactive. No connect charges. No passwords required.
- o Helps users track changes in their fields, spot job market trends.
- o 57% of user-applicants earn over \$35,000 -- 14% earn over \$60,000.

Free-access Phone Numbers

(201)688-5599	(201)618-8816
(301)982-0224	(301)982-0225
(213)618-8800	(213)618-8816
(408)294-2000	(408)294-2426

(415)482-1550	(415)482-1557
(619)224-8800	(619)224-8838

For Technical Assistance Call (213)618-1525

Two other telecommunication sources for employment opportunities are available. One is THE SOURCE and the other is on COMPU-SERVE. On THE SOURCE enter 'EMPLOY' at command level. Use GO CJB on COMPU-SERVE.

\*\*\*

**SURVEY - SURVEY - SURVEY - SURVEY - SURVEY**

BE SURE TO COMPLETE AND RETURN YOUR SURVEY WHICH IS BOUND IN THE CENTER OF THIS ISSUE.

WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PREPARE WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES WHICH BEST MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR MEMBERSHIP. YOUR NEEDS ARE OUR GOALS.

\*\*\*

ANTIC magazine posted a very complete transcript of their recent interview with Jack Tramiel on the Atari\*SIG Compu-serve board. I downloaded the file and will have copies available for your review at the meeting. The interview covers many items which have not appeared in the press. Be sure to read this one.

Elsewhere in this issue are the comments of Mr. Leonard Tramiel, Atari V.P., from a speech he gave to the San Leandro, CA. Atari club on Oct. 2nd.

**MAN-ON-THE-STREET (continued)**

MA: You do that.

And you MILATARI members who haven't participated in a meeting or workshop to show what you know, think about it too! After all, you are the users group. If you don't help, the group can't do its job for you!

YOU CAME TO LEARN, NOW WHY NOT HELP TEACH!

1. *Indicate the name of your company*  
2. *Indicate the name of your office*  
3. *Indicate the name of your supervisor*  
4. *Indicate the name of your manager*  
5. *Indicate the name of your director*  
6. *Indicate the name of your president*  
7. *Indicate the name of your chairman*  
8. *Indicate the name of your vice-president*  
9. *Indicate the name of your treasurer*  
10. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
11. *Indicate the name of your auditor*  
12. *Indicate the name of your legal counsel*  
13. *Indicate the name of your financial manager*  
14. *Indicate the name of your personnel manager*  
15. *Indicate the name of your public relations manager*  
16. *Indicate the name of your advertising manager*  
17. *Indicate the name of your sales manager*  
18. *Indicate the name of your production manager*  
19. *Indicate the name of your research manager*  
20. *Indicate the name of your quality control manager*  
21. *Indicate the name of your safety manager*  
22. *Indicate the name of your maintenance manager*  
23. *Indicate the name of your shipping manager*  
24. *Indicate the name of your receiving manager*  
25. *Indicate the name of your purchasing manager*  
26. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
27. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
28. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
29. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
30. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
31. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
32. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
33. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
34. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
35. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
36. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
37. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
38. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
39. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
40. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
41. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
42. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
43. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
44. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
45. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
46. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
47. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
48. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
49. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
50. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
51. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
52. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
53. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
54. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
55. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
56. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
57. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
58. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
59. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
60. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
61. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
62. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
63. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
64. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
65. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
66. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
67. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
68. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
69. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
70. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
71. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
72. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
73. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
74. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
75. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
76. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
77. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
78. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
79. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
80. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
81. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
82. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
83. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
84. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
85. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
86. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
87. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
88. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
89. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
90. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
91. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
92. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
93. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
94. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
95. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
96. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
97. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
98. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
99. *Indicate the name of your controller*  
100. *Indicate the name of your controller*

Print your name below word **FOLD ON LINE** and **place stamp here**

From: \_\_\_\_\_

place  
stamp  
here

MILATARI *Indicate name*  
P. O. BOX 1191 *Indicate name*  
WAUKESHA, WI 531987-1191

Print your name below word **FOLD ON LINE**

Please describe your computer system:

Computer type(s):

Cassette Recorder (Y/N)?

Disk Drive(s) (Y/N)?

Type(s):

Modem(s) (Y/N)?

Type(s):

Printer(s) (Y/N)?

Type(s):

Monitor(s) (Y/N)?

Type(s):

Other?

On a scale of 1 to 9 (1=beginner, 9=expert), how would you rate your programming ability?

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1=never, 5=almost always), how would you rate each of the following computer uses:

Entertainment?

Education?

Home applications?

Business applications?

For each of the following languages, please tell if you are interested in using the language. If you are, please rate your knowledge on a scale of 1 to 9 as above.

Atari BASIC?

Other BASICs for the Atari?

6502 Assembly language?

C?

Pascal?

LISP?

Other (please specify)?

Would you be interested in a class on any of the above languages in 1985 (Y/N)? If you are interested:

Which one(s)?

Would you be more interested in a class or a SIG?

If you would like to be contacted if there is enough interest, please give the information below:

Name?

Street Address?

City, ST, & ZIP?

Phone Number?

Member number?

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey.

MILATARI Survey  
P.O. Box 1191  
Waukesha, WI 53187-1191

Notes on the San Leandro Club Meeting  
on 10/2/84 with Leonard Tramiel

## THE MAIN MEETING

OCTOBER 2, 1984

As I sit down to write this, I have a feeling it will turn into quite a long file. Please take the time to read it through. There was quite a lot of fascinating information passed along during the meeting and I feel it will be useful to all Atari users. You may want to take some of it with a grain of salt - if you know what I mean...

The long awaited appearance of Mr. Leonard Tramiel, V.P. of the new Atari Corp. and head of the Software Division was our main speaker for the evening. I say main because we also had another very important speaker that was not scheduled.

The president of the club, Trey Itruzzello introduced Mr. Tramiel, stating that Mr. Tramiel started his computer career when in Junior High School by taking a Fortran class. This lead to an interest in Radio Astronomy and the electronics needed in the field. He later was part of the design team of the Pet computer.

He confessed straight off that he did not have a speech ready and so took questions from the floor the entire time he was at the podium.

The first round of questions centered around the rumored 16 bit machine Atari was supposed to have in the works. Mr. Tramiel stated that the machine is indeed real and told us to look to the CES in January.

He did not want to answer questions relating to the specifics of the machine. He did indicate that Atari will sell the computer separately. No screen, disk drive(s) or printer will be included. Atari wants to keep the price as low as possible. He said the machine would be made available through

large retail chains like Sears, Pennys and Wards. He said it would not be compatible with the older Atari machines nor would it be an IBM look-a-like. He claimed it would take the "next step" in high end personal computers, including the new MAC.

Members were wondering what type of software would the new machine be capable of running.

Mr. Tramiel felt he could not answer this fully because it would lead to an idea about the amount of memory the machine had, but he did say that the hardware of the machine would be able to handle Lotus123, Symphony, Framework and so on, but that all new programs would have to be written because of the new OS the machine has. He also stated that machines currently running this sort of complex software were being very wasteful of memory and were extremely disk intensive. "DOS=Disk Operation Software."

About the only thing Mr. Tramiel would say for sure about the hardware was that the Amiga chips would not be part of the new machine. He did say that Atari was pursuing the rights to the chips through the courts.

Another area of concern by the members was the fate of the 800 and 800 XL machines.

Mr. Tramiel said that the 800XL would still be produced after the current stock was sold out. He said that there would be internal changes made to the machine so that they would be more reliable and cheaper to produce. He said Atari still plans to market new software for the XL. The new software would be compatible with the old 800 as far as the old 800 is compatible with the XL.

Who will be producing the new computer and the 800XL? And what about keeping up with the (hopefully) large demand considering the number of layoffs?

## San Leandro Meeting Notes (Continued)

The old Atari had a huge amount of waste. The lay-offs were done not by simply striking names randomly from a list but by careful consideration of what was needed to bring the company back to a profitable state. Atari plans to do all its own manufacturing.

In the area of education, Mr. Tramiel said there were no special plans to offer reduced price packages. He felt the price was so low that an institution would be hard pressed to find a better price - performance ratio. The same was true for users groups. He said that if a group buy were made through a retail outlet then maybe something could be arranged but that nothing could be had from Atari direct. There were no plans for a special education division in the software department either, but the area would not be neglected. One item of software Mr. Tramiel did confirm was the Plato Package. He said it should be out sometime near Christmas.

In the area of service, Mr. Tramiel said that there would still be the 1500 or so authorized service centers but no "open door" policy would exist like the old Atari had. He did not want people to go out and buy parts and make their own machines. He did say that all information needed by third party manufacturersactures would be made available to them as soon as the new machine is released.

Mr. Tramiel stated that there was currently a problem in warranty service, especially for machines purchased in the past three months, but the problems were being looked at and there will be a solution (hopefully) soon. He did take down the names and phone numbers of several members that were having problems.

In the area of user support, Mr. Tramiel stated that the current plans are to organize the larger Atari User Groups into a sort of "Clearing House" and to distribute information and public domain programs through them.

He also said a newsletter from Atari was in the works. One member remarked that if the new machine was so exotic that it would be necessary for Atari to have a direct line of communication for the end user, perhaps in the form of an 800 number. Mr. Tramiel replied that this type of thing was extremely expensive and was not planned. He felt that vastly improved documentation was one answer, in addition to using the user groups as he already stated. He also felt that a truly advanced machine did not need such a line. If a person needed to have someone hold his hand to get the machine turned on, then the user groups were the best way to go. A one on one tutoring session could be had in this way and this was something only user groups could provide. He said Atari was planning an extremely active user group support policy.

In the area of games and game machines, Mr. Tramiel did not know if the 7800 pro-system would ever be produced. He felt the thrust of the new Atari Corp. would be in the area of computers and not toys. He did say that arrangements were being made so Atari Coin-Op games could be made available to the computer owner. (The Coin-Op division still belongs to Warner.) He also said that contracts were being renegotiated with third party publishers so there would be continued support for both the new machine and the 800XL. Lucasfilm was specifically mentioned and the answer was that conversations were going on with Lucasfilm.

One bold member stated near the end of the discussion that it seemed that the new Atari had plans of packaging the new machines as if they were toasters and that, there would be many problems as far as user support and service. "How could refrigerator salesman effectively sell a computer?"

Mr. Tramiel replied that Atari was trying to get the new machines out as cost effectively as possible and to this end they felt the large retail outlets were the best way to

December 1984

Page 9

RAMROD XL REVIEW  
by Pete Kurth

I had just purchased the Ramrod XL by David Young of CDY Consulting for my 800 XL. This lets me have three operating systems on the computer; the normal XL operating system, OMNIMONXL, and OMNIVEIWXL. The OMNIMONXL is a part of Ramrod but OMNIVEIWXL is an extra that had to be added to the Ramrod. Some of the other features of Ramrod are floating point routines and with a FASTCHIP XL which speed up the machine about 4 times.

OMNIMONXL is a resident monitor with debugging tools. Some of the tools are to alter memory, search memory, hex conversion/arithmetic, printer, disk I/O, link/seq mode, read directory, push stack, pop stack, disassemble memory, assembler, execute memory, verify memory, and boot disk. This is a very powerful programming tool and one that I have been using for about two years on my 400.

OMNIVEIWXL is an 80 column program on a chip that plugs in to the free socket on the RAMROD-XL. OMNIVIEWXL takes advantage of the high resolution graphics in the ATARI to generate an 80 column screen editor.

Tools required to install are a phillips head screwdriver, a small flat blade screwdriver, pliers, and a 1/4 inch drill.

The installation of RAMROD-XL is quite simple if you follow the step by step instructions that come with the RAMROD. Open up the computer and take the metal shield off. After a slight modification is made to the metal shield, install OMNIVIEW to RAMROD and then install XL-OS to the RAMROD, install RAMROD in the computer. Drill a 1/4 inch hole in the back of the computer to mount the switch that comes with the RAMROD all wired. No cutting of circuit board is needed. Put the shielding back on the mother board put the mother board back in the case and screw the case back together. The total time it took was 30 to 45 min.

I think the product is well documented to install and use. OMNIMON is a great programming aid. OMNIVIEW is fair but it does not have the clarity of a BIT-3 board.

I am happy with the product.

\*\*\*

San Leandro  
Meeting

go. He said that user support, as currently planned would be through a sort of "clearing house of information" with the current user groups and that Atari would support these fully.

Our second speaker was from OSS. Mr. Bill Wilkinson was attending the meeting to hear what Mr. Tramiel had to say, and after Mr. Tramiel left, Bill gave a short demonstration of some of the routines available in the new BASIC XL TOOL KIT.

One of the most interesting things available in it was a run-time package for BASIC XL. If you write a program using the more advanced commands in BASIC XL, then your program will not work with Atari 8K BASIC. With this new run-time package, you can give (or sell) your BASIC XL programs to someone and they will be able to run the program even if they don't have the BASIC XL cartridge.

Another file in the Tool Kit adds commands to BASIC XL. Such key words as PROCEDURE, EXIT, LOCAL, SORT and CALL are added. It looks like it works some what like the extension diskette that comes with the Atari MICROSOFT BASIC II cartridge. With these commands, Bill showed a short program that demonstrated recursion to figure the factorial of an integer. All in all, quite an interesting talk for the BASIC programmer.

Bill noted some concern by several 800/800XL owners that their computers were now obsolete. He mentioned that OSS has been doing some testing with the 800XL and the parallel bus. They have been able to get a data transmission rate to a hard disk of about 30K bytes per second. This means that the RAM available to a user with the proper configuration of hardware and software is as large as the hard disk storage area - up to around 20M bytes!

\*\*\*

# MILATARI NEWSLETTER

December 1984

Page 11

## MILATARI INFORMATION PAGE

### MILATARI OFFICERS

President..... Gary Nolan.... 353-9716  
Vice President... Chris Stieber. 529-2663  
Secretary..... Linda Scott... 466-2314  
Treasurer..... Steve Tupper.. 462-8178

MILATARI  
Milwaukee Area Atari Users Club

MILATARI is an independent, user education group which is not affiliated with ATARI, INC. The newsletter is the official publication of MILATARI and is intended for the education of its members as well as for the dissemination of information concerning ATARI computer products.

MILATARI membership is open to individuals and families who are interested in using and programming ATARI computers. The membership includes a subscription to this newsletter and access to the club libraries. The annual membership fee is \$15 for individual or \$20 for a family.

Other computer user groups may obtain copies of this newsletter on an exchange basis.

All Material in this newsletter not bearing a 'COPYWRITE' message may be reprinted in any form, provided that MILATARI and the author are given credit.

MILATARI BULLETIN BOARD..... 355-6031

### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

This newsletter is written and printed by members of the Milwaukee Area ATARI User's Group (MILATARI), an association of individuals with a common interest in using and programming ATARI computers. MILATARI is not affiliated with the ATARI company or any other commercial organizations.

Your contributions of articles are always welcome. You may submit your article on ATARI compatible compatible cassette or diskette, on typewritten form or you can arrange with the editor to upload your file via modem at either 300 or 1200 baud. You can send GRAPHICS EIGHT or SEVEN PLUS screens stored on disk in a straight 62 sector binary file of the actual screen bytes. A MICRPAINTER file or binary file saved through +PICTURE PLUS+ will work fine.

Mail your articles and inquires to the editor at the return address on this newsletter.

### MILATARI ADVERTISING RATES

This newsletter will accept camera ready advertising copy from anyone supplying goods and services of interest to our membership.

Current paid members of MILATARI may place classified ads in the newsletter at no charge.

#### Advertising Rates

Full page.....	\$37.50
Half page.....	\$20.00
Quarter page.....	\$12.50
Business card.....	\$2.00

Long term contracts are available.

Copy is due by the 3rd Friday of each month.

# 5-1/4" DISKS AS LOW AS \$13.95 A BOX!

<u>Brand</u>		<u>1-2 Boxes</u>	<u>3 or More Boxes</u>
<b>Maxell</b>	(MD-1) . . . . .	SS/DD	\$22.50/Box
<b>Elephant</b>	(#2) . . . . .	SS/DD	22.50/Box
<b>Elephant</b>	(#1) . . . . .	SS/SD	19.95/Box
<b>Verbatim Datalife</b>	(MD525-01) . . .	SS/DD	19.95/Box
<b>Ultra Magnetics</b>	(#5001) . . . . .	SS/SD	14.95/Box
			13.95/Box

All disks are soft sectored, have hub rings and sleeves and are packed 10 per box. All prices and availability are subject to change without notice.

## COMPUTER SOFTWARE CENTER 9805 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee

(Two blocks East of Interstate 894)



Tues.-Fri. 12-8, Sat. 12-5

(414) 543-5123

=====

MILATARI NEWSLETTER  
P.O. Box 1191  
Waukesha, Wisconsin 53187-1191

=====

U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
BULK RATE  
PERMIT NO. 201  
WAUKESHA, WI 53187

=====

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FORWARDING POSTAGE GUARANTEED

DELIVER TO:

80.00  
80.00  
80.00  
80.00  
80.00

80.00  
80.00  
80.00  
80.00  
80.00